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MEMOIRS

speech which he knew himself to possess. On accompanying his master to Vienna shortly after his appointment, the new Foreign Secretary urged him to adapt his Toast to the prosaic temperament of Francis Joseph, "My dear Bernhard," replied the Kaiser in the friendliest tone, "you are, of course, much cleverer than I, but I know more about speaking than you. I believe you have never made a public speech. I have made plenty, and I can say without vanity that they were not bad. So let me speak in my own way." He proceeded to deliver a dithyrambic harangue which obviously displeased the old host, to whom over-emphasis and gush were anathema. Worse was to follow, and it was one of Billow's constant cares to avert, conceal or explain away rhetorical kpses which sometimes echoed round the world.

"Perhaps the most detrimental speech he ever made" is the comment on the "Hunnenrede" of 1900. The Kaiser's equilibrium was always disturbed when his vivid imagination turned to the Far East. His famous picture-of-the Yellow Peril, with the inscription "Peoples of Europe, preserve your holiest possessions," was a nightmare to his Ministers, and is rightly described by Bulow as grotesque; yet reproductions were hung by his orders in the ships of the Hamburg-Amerika and the Norddeutscher Lloyd bound for the East, to the delight of the English who sucked no small advantage from this offence to Japanese feeling." His aversion to the Japanese as a race extended to individuals, and we are assured that he treated their diplomats and officers badly, despite the remonstrances of his advisers.

If the Japanese were not to his taste, how much greater was his horror of the Chinese! Never did Bulow find him in a state of such excitement as during the opening phases of the

Boxer revolt, and the overstrained nerves found
expression in
the historic words to the departing troops at
Bremerhafen on
June 27, 1900. " Pardon will not be granted,
prisoners will
not be made. As a thousand years ago the
Huns of Attila
made themselves a name which lives in story and
legend, so let
the German name be impressed on China by you
in such a way
that no Chinaman ever again dares to look
askance at a
German." Before the speech was finished the
agitated
Foreign Secretary issued instructions that it
was not to be
published till it had been corrected by himself.
The journalist
loyally obeyed, but the reporter of a local paper,
perched on a
neighbouring roof, had caught the fatal phrase
and given it to